Free trade zone at Visakhapatnam

979. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to set up a Free Trade Zone at Visakhapatnam has been pending for a long time;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in setting up the same; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) No, Sir. The setting up of the Export Processing Zone at Visakhapatnam has already been approved by the Government and notified on 15-3-1989.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The basic infrastructure for the Zone is likely to be completd in two years. However, applications for setting up of units in the Zone would be entertained by end of his financial year.

Export of onion and garlic

980. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the export of onion and garlic;

(b) whether these items are being mainly exported to Arab countries;

(c) what steps have been taken to produce that variety of onion which is liked by the people in western countries; and

(d) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has recommended any steps to be taken to increase the export of onion and garlic?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) A statement is attached. (See below).

(c) Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Associated Development Foundation are making efforts for dveloping seeds for white and yellow varieties of conion preferred by the Western countries.

(d) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has not recommended any specific steps to increase the export of onion and garlic. However, export oriented research on vegetable crops in general and onion and garlic in particular is one of their priority areas of research.

Statement

Steps taken by Government for the export of onion and garlic

Export of onion is canalised through NAFED. Trade is also associated in its export. Since canalisation during 1974-75, continued efforts have been made by NAFED to maximise onion export from the country in terms of quantity and value. Export of onion is not only confined to Arab countries but it is also exported to Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives, Srilanka, Seychelles, Mauritius, Bangladesh Nepal and USSR.

Garlic is exported by individual exporters who are having Spices Board's certificate of registration as exporter of spices. Major quantity of Garlic is exported to Asian countries such as Bangla Desh and Sri Lanka. Exports are also effected to Arab countries like UAE, and Kuwait. The Spices Board is taking a number of measures to increase export of spices including garlic such as sponsoring of sales-cum-study delegation, publicity programmes in WANA, West Europe and USA for popularising Indian spices etc.

Production of steel by private sector

981. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of steel is being produced by the private sector at present;

(b) whether it is a act that Government propose to allow private sector to expand its production capacity by setting up new steel projects; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the quantity of steel likely to be produced through private sector by the end of the Eighth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The quantity of crude steel produced by the secondary producers during 1989-90 was 3.13 million tonnes and that by the Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO) 2.32 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to allow creation of additional steel making capacity in the secondary sector with unit capacity upto one million tonne based on electric are furnace/energy optimising technologies including small blast furnaces. Entrepreneurs will have the option to decide the plant size keeping in view the product-mix and technology to be adopted. Six million tonnes of crude steel is expected to be produced by the secondary producers by the end of the Eighth Plan and 3.05 million tonnes by TISCO.

Refusal by POSCO to assist in setting up steel plant in Orissa

982. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pohang Steel Company (POSCO) of South Korea has refused to assist Government in setting up a steel plant at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa Government has already started negotiation with other foreign countries for a second steel plant in the State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Government of India have not sought the assistance of Pohang Steel Corporation (POSCO) of South Korea for setting up a steel plant at Paradeep in Orissa.

(c) and (d) No formal proposal has been received from the Orissa State Government in regard to establishment of another steel plant in the State.

पटसन का उत्पादन

983. श्री राम जेठमलानी : सरदार अजीत सिंह अरोड़ा क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस वर्ष पटसन का उत्पादन 68 लाख गांठों से अधिक होने की संभावना है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि पटसन उत्पादकों को उनकी उपज का लाभकारी मूल्य प्रदान करने के लिये, सरकार ने भारतीय पटसन निगम के माध्यम से पटसन खरीदने का निर्णय किया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो भारतीय पटसन निगम ने इस वर्ष कितना पटसन खरीदने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है और इस प्रकार खरीदे गये पटसन का भंडारण करने के लिये की गई व्यवस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री, साथ में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री शरद यादव) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) न्यूनतम समर्थन कीमत पर खरीद के लिये जे०सी०आई० की एक उन्मुक्त नीति है, जिसके तहत निगम तथा इसके राज्य स्तरीय खरीद संगठनों को किसानों द्वारा कच्चे पटसन की जितनी भी मात्रा उपलब्ध कराई जाती